



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/647,208	08/26/2003	Ryoji Watanabe	116938	1893
25944	7590	04/24/2009	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850				GETANEH, MESFIN S
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
2625				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
04/24/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/647,208	WATANABE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MESFIN GETANEH	2625	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 January 2009.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9,11,13 and 16-21 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1,3,5,7,9,11,1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16-17 and 18-21 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
- Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
- Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application

6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1 and 16-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ostrover et al. here in after Ostrover (US Pat 6,585,154) in view of Doi (US Pat 5,995,712) and further in view of Teraura (Pub US 20020170973).**

With regards of claim 1, Ostrover teaches an image forming system (system 20 of FIG. 2) comprising:

a first image forming member (document 42 of FIG. 2) having a data storage unit and a data supply unit (a microchip 22 which includes a memory device capable of storing electronic data and a mechanism for affixation to a document, col. 4, line 66-67 and col. 5, line 1-14; col. 6, line 15-26);

a second image forming member (writing surface 70) being different from the first image member (the accompanying claims the term printer refers to any device which produces a legible copy of a data on a writing surface, col. 5, line 44-50); Examiner views that the printer produces a copy of data on a writing surface as just a printing sheet or paper that the final printout will be performed.

a data writing unit (a chip loading device 24 with capable of placing electronic data corresponding to at least a portion of the document in the memory device of microchip 22, col. 5, line 15-21);

a data reading unit (a chip reading device 26 for reading the electronic copy of at least a portion of the content of document 42, col. 6, line 33-41 and line 45-52);

an image forming apparatus (a printer 30 or 29 of FIG. 2) for forming an image on at least the first image forming member (method 60 may further include the step of affixing microchip 22 to an item such as, for example, document 42 or a blank writing surface upon which document 42 may be printed, col. 6, line 32-37), wherein:

Ostrover does not explicitly teach

an image reading unit for reading a plurality of images, which are printed on originals, respectively, to form plural pieces of image data indicating the read images, respectively;

a selecting unit;

the selecting unit receives an operation to select at least one of the plural pieces of image data read by the data reading unit, and

a merging unit for merging the plurality of images into a single combined image;

the image forming unit forms the image indicated by the selected image data on the second image forming member.

Doi teaches

the data writing unit writes (image I/O unit 41) the plural pieces of image data, which indicate the images read by the image reading unit (writes the image data from the image read device 2 to the frame memory 42),

an image reading unit (image read device 2) for reading a plurality of images, which are printed on originals, respectively, to form plural pieces of image data indicating the read images, respectively (reads some original documents sequentially, col. 4, line 33-40; when reading of the first original document image, the copier application 7 sends a command indicating transferring image data of a second original document from the image read device 2 to the memory device 4, to the system control layer 5. These processes are repeated for a number of copies input by an operator, col. 5, 45-60);

the selecting unit receives an operation to select at least one of the plural pieces of image data read by the data reading unit (an operator selects combine copy mode by the memory copy key and inputs a number of image data to be combined. The image read device 2 reads the first original document image with a reduction operation according to the number of images to be combined. The image data from the image data device is then sent to the memory device 4, col. 6, line 39-67; The (number of original documents/ the number of combine) means the number of kinds of output-combined copies. The number of all output-combined copies is the number of kinds of output-combined copies by the number of copies input by an operator, col. 7, line 1-24). Examiner views when all the original documents are scanned and stored, they will be set to combine according to the operator selection. Therefore, the combination is

performed by selecting the read documents by the read device and now stored in the memory.

a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet (col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to combine plural images into one for intermitting of the combine copy function is decreased and an efficiency of making a copy is enhanced (col.1, line 55-57).

Ostrover and Doi do not explicitly teach an image forming unit for forming the combined image on the single first image forming member;

a data writing unit writes into the data storage unit of the first image forming member;

a data reading unit reads the plural pieces of image data, which indicate the respective images and are supplied from a data supply unit of the first image forming member;

Teraura teaches a second sheet of printing paper with a second RFID tag, ([0024]). an image forming unit for forming the combined image on the single first image forming member (printing unit 11 in FIG. 5 prints image on a printing paper with RFID tag, [0081]);

a data writing unit (a data recording means) writes into the data storage unit of the first image forming member (for recording RFID data in RFID tag, [0010], the third reader-writer writes the data read from RFID tag of the sheet of document paper 61 in the RFID tag of the sheet of the printing paper 13, [0093]);

a data reading unit (a data reading means) reads the plural pieces of image data, which indicate the respective images and are supplied from a data supply unit of the first image forming member (for reading first data from first RFID tag, [0015], [0086]-[0087]);

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

With regards of claim 18, the image forming system according claim 1, Ostrover and Doi do not explicitly teach wherein the second image forming member includes another storage unit configured to store data and another data supply unit configured to supply the data stored in said another storage unit.

Teraura teaches a second sheet of printing paper with a second RFID tag, ([0024]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

With regards of claim 19, the image forming system according to claim 1, Ostrover and Doi do not explicitly teach wherein the second image forming member includes no storage unit configured to store data.

Teraura teaches a second sheet of printing paper without RFID tag, ([0011]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

With regards of claim 16, the apparatus of claim 1 performs the method of claim 16 and thus, this claim is analyzed and rejected for the same reason set forth in rejection of claim 1.

With regards of claim 17, the apparatus of claim 1 has a computer-readable medium storing a computer to perform the method of claim 16 and thus, this claim is analyzed and rejected for the same reason set forth in rejection of claim 1 (Doi, FIG. 1).

3. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi (US Pat 5,995,712) in view of Teraura (Pub US 20020170973).

With regards of claim 3, Doi teaches an image forming apparatus (a digital copier of FIG. 1) comprising:

an image reading unit (image read device 2) for reading a plurality of images, which are printed on originals, respectively, to form plural pieces of image data indicating the read images, respectively (when reading of the first original document image, the copier application 7 sends a command indicating transferring image data of

a second original document from the image read device 2 to the memory device 4, to the system control layer 5. These processes are repeated for a number of copies input by an operator, col. 5, 45-60);

a merging unit for merging the plurality of images into a single combined image (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed on one recording sheet (col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11);

an image forming unit for forming the combined image on a single first image forming member (printing unit 11 in FIG. 5 prints image on a printing paper with RFID tag, [0081]);

a selecting unit;

the selecting unit receives an operation to select at least one of the plural pieces of image data read by the data reading unit, and

(an operator selects combine copy mode by the memory copy key and inputs a number of image data to be combined. The image read device 2 reads the first original document image with a reduction operation according to the number of images to be combined. The image data from the image data device is then sent to the memory device 4, col. 6, line 39-67; The (number of original documents/ the number of combine) means the number of kinds of output-combined copies. The number of all output-combined copies is the number of kinds of output-combined copies by the number of copies input by an operator, col. 7, line 1-24). Examiner views when all the original documents are scanned and stored, they will be set to combine according to the

operator selection. Therefore, the combination is performed by selecting the read documents by the read device and now stored in the memory.

Doi does not explicitly teach
a data writing unit;
the data writing unit writes, into the data storage unit of the first image forming member, the plural pieces of image data, which indicate the images read by the image reading unit,

a data reading unit;
the data reading unit reads the plural pieces of image data, which indicate the respective images and are supplied from a data supply unit of the first image forming member on which the combined image has been formed,

the image forming unit forms the image indicated by the selected image data on a second image forming member being different from the first forming member.

Teraura teaches
a data writing unit (a data recording means) writes into the data storage unit of the first image forming member (for recording RFID data in RFID tag, [0010], the third reader-writer writes the data read from RFID tag of the sheet of document paper 61 in the RFID tag of the sheet of the printing paper 13, [0093]);

a data reading unit (a data reading means) reads the plural pieces of image data, which indicate the respective images and are supplied from a data supply unit of the first image forming member (for reading first data from first RFID tag, [0015], [0086]-[0087]);

the image forming unit forms the image indicated by the selected image data on a second image forming member being different from the first forming member (printing the image on a sheet of paper with a second RFID tag of the sheet of printing paper, [0043]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

4. Claims 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Doi (US Pat 5,995,712) in view of Teraura (Pub US 20020170973) further in view of Ostrover (US Pat 6,585,154).

With regards of claim 5, the image forming apparatus according to claim 3, Doi and Teraura do not explicitly teach further comprising:

a display unit for displaying at least one image using the image data read by the reading unit.

Ostrover teaches a method that further includes the step of reading the electronic data and reading may result in data displaying using a printer or a computer monitor, (col. 6, line 30-40).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to display the read image data for making sure the electronic data scanned or read properly.

With regards of claim 20, the image forming apparatus according claim 3, Doi and Ostrover do not explicitly teach wherein the second image forming member includes another storage unit configured to store data and another data supply unit configured to supply the data stored in said another storage unit.

Teraura teaches a second sheet of printing paper with a second RFID tag, ([0024]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

With regards of claim 21, the image forming apparatus according to claim 3, Doi and Ostrover do not explicitly teach wherein the second image forming member includes no storage unit configured to store data.

Teraura teaches a second sheet of printing paper without RFID tag, ([0011]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

With regards of claim 7, Doi teaches an image forming apparatus (a digital copier of FIG. 1) comprising:

an image reading unit (image read device 2) for reading a plurality of images, which are printed on originals, respectively, to form plural pieces of image data

indicating the read images, respectively (reads some original documents sequentially, col. 4, line 33-40; when reading of the first original document image, the copier application 7 sends a command indicating transferring image data of a second original document from the image read device 2 to the memory device 4, to the system control layer 5. These processes are repeated for a number of copies input by an operator, col. 5, 45-60);

a merging unit for merging the plurality of images into a single combined image, (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet, col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11); and generating layout data indicating layout of the read images in the combined image (in the combine copy process, when two A4 original documents are combined and formed on one A4 recording paper sheet, each original document image data is reduced at 71% and sent to the memory device. And when four A4 original documents are combined, each original document image data is reduced at 50% and sent to the memory device 4, col. 6, line 1-35). Examiner views in order for the combine copy process to know how much percent reduction to use for each original document that scanned, it has to able to determine how many originals are to be formed in one recording sheet. The percent reduction is directly dependent on the number of original documents that are to be formed on one recording sheet. The image forming unit uses these information to combine the original plural documents in to one recording sheet. Examiner views the

image forming unit lays out the images to be combined according to the process described above and seen in FIG. 10.

an imaging forming unit for forming the combined images on a single first image forming member (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet, col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11);

the image forming unit divides the combined image, which is read from the first image forming member, into plural segment images in accordance with the read layout data and forms the segment images on respective second image forming members being different from the first image forming member (As shown in FIG. 10, original document 1 and original document 2 are divided to fit in one A4 recording sheet).

Doi does not explicitly teach
a data writing unit for writing the layout data generated by the margining unit into a storage unit of the first imaging forming member; and
a data reading unit for reading the layout data from the storage unit of the first imaging member, and

the image reading unit reads the combined image formed on the first image forming member, and

Teraura teaches
a data writing unit (a data recording means) writes into the data storage unit of the first image forming member (for recording RFID data in RFID tag, [0010], the third

reader-writer writes the data read from RFID tag of the sheet of document paper 61 in the RFID tag of the sheet of the printing paper 13, [0093]);

 a data reading unit (a data reading means) reads the plural pieces of image data, which indicate the respective images and are supplied from a data supply unit of the first image forming member (for reading first data from first RFID tag, [0015], [0086]-[0087]);

 Ostrover teaches

 a data writing unit (a chip loading device 24 with capable of placing electronic data corresponding to at least a portion of the document in the memory device of microchip 22, col. 5, line 15-21);

 a data reading unit (a chip reading device 26 for reading the electronic copy of at least a portion of the content of document 42, col. 6, line 33-41 and line 45-52);

 an image forming apparatus (a printer 30 or 29 of FIG. 2) for forming an image on at least the first image forming member (method 60 may further include the step of affixing microchip 22 to an item such as, for example, document 42 or a blank writing surface upon which document 42 may be printed, col. 6, line 32-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

With regards of claim 9, Doi teaches an image forming apparatus (a digital copier of FIG. 1) comprising:

an image reading unit (image read device 2) for reading a plurality of images, which are printed on originals, respectively, to form plural pieces of image data indicating the read images, respectively (reads some original documents sequentially, col. 4, line 33-40; when reading of the first original document image, the copier application 7 sends a command indicating transferring image data of a second original document from the image read device 2 to the memory device 4, to the system control layer 5. These processes are repeated for a number of copies input by an operator, col. 5, 45-60),

a merging unit for merging the plurality of images into a single combined image (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet, col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11);

an image forming unit for forming the combined image on a single first image forming member (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet, col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11);

the image reading unit reads the combined image formed on the first image forming member (image read device is capable of reading the combined image of FIG. 10), and

the image reading unit for generating total number data indicating a total number of the read images (the image read device 2 reads the first original document image

with a reduction operation according to a number of image data to be combined, col. 6, line 49-55);

the image forming unit divides the combined image, which read from the first image forming member, into plural segment images according with the read total number data and forms the segment images on respective second image forming members being different from the first image forming member (As shown in FIG. 10, original document 1 and original document 2 are divided to fit in one A4 recording sheet).

Doi does not explicitly teach
a data writing unit for writing the total number data generated by the image reading unit into a storage unit of the first image forming member; and
a data reading unit for reading the total number data from the storage unit of the first image forming member, wherein

Teraura teaches
a data writing unit (a data recording means) for writing the total number data generated by the image reading unit into a storage unit of the first image forming member (for recording RFID data in RFID tag, [0010], the third reader-writer writes the data read from RFID tag of the sheet of document paper 61 in the RFID tag of the sheet of the printing paper 13, [0093]);

a data reading unit (a data reading means) for reading the total number data from the storage unit of the first image forming member (for reading first data from first RFID tag, [0015], [0086]-[0087]);

Ostrover teaches

a data writing unit (a chip loading device 24 with capable of placing electronic data corresponding to at least a portion of the document in the memory device of microchip 22, col. 5, line 15-21);

a data reading unit (a chip reading device 26 for reading the electronic copy of at least a portion of the content of document 42, col. 6, line 33-41 and line 45-52);

an image forming apparatus (a printer 30 or 29 of FIG. 2) for forming an image on at least the first image forming member (method 60 may further include the step of affixing microchip 22 to an item such as, for example, document 42 or a blank writing surface upon which document 42 may be printed, col. 6, line 32-37).

With regards of claim 11, Doi teaches an image forming apparatus (a digital copier of FIG. 1) comprising:

an image reading unit (image read device 2) for reading a plurality of images, which are printed on originals, respectively, to form plural piece of image data indicating the read images, respectively (reads some original documents sequentially, col. 4, line 33-40; when reading of the first original document image, the copier application 7 sends a command indicating transferring image data of a second original document from the image read device 2 to the memory device 4, to the system control layer 5. These processes are repeated for a number of copies input by an operator, col. 5, 45-60);

an original-size specifying section for generating size data indicating sizes of originals (in the combine copy process, when two A4 original documents are combined and formed on one A4 recording paper sheet, each original document image data is

reduced at 71% and sent to the memory device. And when four A4 original documents are combined, each original document image data is reduced at 50% and sent to the memory device 4, col. 6, line 1-35);

a merging unit for merging the plurality of images into a single combined image (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet, col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11);

an image forming unit for forming the combined image on a single first image forming member (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet, col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11);

an imaging forming unit for forming the combined images on a single first image forming member (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet, col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11);

the image forming unit divides the combined image, which is read from the first image forming member, into plural segment images in accordance with the read layout data and forms the segment images on respective second image forming members being different from the first image forming member (As shown in FIG. 10, original document 1 and original document 2 are divided to fit in one A4 recording sheet).

Doi does not explicitly teach
a data writing unit for writing the generated size data indicating the sizes of the originals whose images are formed in the combined image on the single first image forming member; and

a data reading unit for reading the layout data from the storage unit of the first imaging member, and

the image reading unit reads the combined image formed on the first image forming member, and

a data recording means for recording RFID data in RFID tag, [0010], the third reader-writer writes the data read from RFID tag of the sheet of document paper 61 in the RFID tag of the sheet of the printing paper 13, [0093]);

a data reading means for reading first data from first RFID tag, [0015], [0086]-[0087]);

Ostrover teaches

a data writing unit (a chip loading device 24 with capable of placing electronic data corresponding to at least a portion of the document in the memory device of microchip 22, col. 5, line 15-21);

a data reading unit (a chip reading device 26 for reading the electronic copy of at least a portion of the content of document 42, col. 6, line 33-41 and line 45-52);

an image forming apparatus (a printer 30 or 29 of FIG. 2) for forming an image on at least the first image forming member (method 60 may further include the step of

affixing microchip 22 to an item such as, for example, document 42 or a blank writing surface upon which document 42 may be printed, col. 6, line 32-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

With regards of claim 13, Doi teaches an image forming apparatus (a digital copier of FIG. 1) comprising:

an image reading unit (image read device 2) for reading a plurality of images, which are printed on originals, respectively, to form plural piece of image data indicating the read images, respectively (reads some original documents sequentially, col. 4, line 33-40; when reading of the first original document image, the copier application 7 sends a command indicating transferring image data of a second original document from the image read device 2 to the memory device 4, to the system control layer 5. These processes are repeated for a number of copies input by an operator, col. 5, 45-60);

a merging unit for changing sizes of the plurality of read images by a certain magnification to merge the plurality of read images into a single combined image (in the combine copy process, when two A4 original documents are combined and formed on one A4 recording paper sheet, each original document image data is reduced at 71% and sent to the memory device. And when four A4 original documents are combined, each original document image data is reduced at 50% and sent to the memory device 4, col. 6, line 1-35);

an image forming unit for forming the combined image on a single first image forming member (a copy function controller that has a combine copy function (merging unit) in which plural documents read by the image reading device are combined and formed (image forming unit) on one recording sheet, col. 1, line 47-50 and col. 3, line 2-11);

the image forming unit divides the combined image, which is read from the first image forming member, into plural segment images in accordance with the read layout data and forms the segment images on respective second image forming members being different from the first image forming member (As shown in FIG. 10, original document 1 and original document 2 are divided to fit in one A4 recording sheet).

Doi does not explicitly teach
a data writing unit for writing magnification data indicating the certain magnification into a storage unit of the first image forming member; and
a data reading unit for reading the magnification data from the storage unit of the first image forming member, wherein

the image reading unit reads the combined image formed on the first image forming member, and

Teraura teaches
a data writing unit (a data recording means) writes into the data storage unit of the first image forming member (for recording RFID data in RFID tag, [0010], the third reader-writer writes the data read from RFID tag of the sheet of document paper 61 in the RFID tag of the sheet of the printing paper 13, [0093]);

a data reading unit (a data reading means) reads the plural pieces of image data, which indicate the respective images and are supplied from a data supply unit of the first image forming member (for reading first data from first RFID tag, [0015], [0086]-[0087]);

Ostrover teaches

a data writing unit (a chip loading device 24 with capable of placing electronic data corresponding to at least a portion of the document in the memory device of microchip 22, col. 5, line 15-21);

a data reading unit (a chip reading device 26 for reading the electronic copy of at least a portion of the content of document 42, col. 6, line 33-41 and line 45-52);

an image forming apparatus (a printer 30 or 29 of FIG. 2) for forming an image on at least the first image forming member (method 60 may further include the step of affixing microchip 22 to an item such as, for example, document 42 or a blank writing surface upon which document 42 may be printed, col. 6, line 32-37).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention was made to store image data in a printing paper and read the stored image data for making a hard copy that has the same quality as the original document.

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 16-17 and 18-21 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

6. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Contact

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MESFIN GETANEH whose telephone number is (571)270-3752. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00AM-6:00PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mark K. Zimmerman can be reached on (571) 272-7653. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Mesfin Getaneh/
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/Mark K Zimmerman/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625